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Message Text

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73
ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08

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P 220135Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, US, JO
SUBJECT: JOINT COMMISSION

REFERENCE: AMMAN 3567

1. WE HAVE REPEATED STATE 121829 TO AMMAN. THIS WAS THE JOINT STATEMENT SIGNED BY PRINCE FAHD AND THE SECRETARY SETTING UP TWO COMMISSIONS (ON ECONOMIC AND SECURITY COOPERATION RESPECTIVELY) AND OUTLINING THE WORK OF FOUR WORKING GROUPS FALLING UNDER THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION. SIMILARLY, THE JUNE 14 JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE END OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO EGYPT (AND PRESUMABLY AVAILABLE TO YOU THROUGH FBIS) SET UP SIX JOINT WORKING GROUPS TO PREPARE PROGRAMS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE JOINT US-EGYPTIAN COMMISSION AT A MEETING LATER THIS YEAR.

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2. WITH BOTH COUNTRIES, THE WORKING GROUPS CONCENTRATE

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ON AREAS WHERE COOPERATION WITH THE US SEEMS PARTICULARLY ADVANTAGEOUS OR DEALS WITH THE HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVES OF THE ARAB STATE. THUS, THE SAUDI WORKING GROUPS AND THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION ITSELF WILL FOCUS ON SAUDI ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. IN THE EGYPTIAN CASE, UNDERSTANDABLY GREAT ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO SUEZ CANAL RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL TO MEDICAL COOPERATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES WHERE EXISTING PROGRAMS PROVIDE A GOOD LAUNCHING PAD.

3. IN ACCORD WITH SAUDI DESIRES, WE INTEND TO HAVE ALL FOUR WORKING GROUPS MEET IN JULY TO FLESH OUT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR EVENTUAL APPROVAL BY THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING IN OCTOBER. THESE WORKING GROUPS MIGHT ALSO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE MORE STUDY OR CONSULTATION IS NEEDED; AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT CONSULTANTS WILL BE HIRED AND THAT NEW GROUPS WILL BE FORMED. THE KEYNOTE IS FLEXIBILITY. WE DO NOT WANT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE RELATIONSHIP ON RIGID, BUREAUCRATIC LINES. SIMILARLY, WITH EGYPT WE HOPE TO COMPLETE A ROUND OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND FLESH OUT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, IN DEVELOPING YOUR OWN IDEAS FOR THE U.S.-JORDANIAN COMMISSION, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE: (A) TO LEAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY AS REGARDS MEMBERSHIP, FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS AND SUBJECT MATTER; AND (B) TO PICK OUT AREAS FOR THE ATTENTION OF WORKING GROUPS OR SPECIAL MISSIONS WHICH APPEAR PARTICULARLY PROMISING OF PROGRESS.

THE WAY JOINT COMMISSIONS HAVE DEVELOPED SO FAR WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT CLOSELY PARALLELS THE PRIME MINISTER'S THOUGHTS AS EXPLAINED PARAGRAPH SIX, AMMAN 3567 IN THE SENSE THAT THERE WOULD BE A PARENT-BODY -- THE COMMISSION -- WITH WORKING GROUPS OR COORDINATING BODIES DEALING WITH SPECIFIC SUBJECTS, INCLUDING IN JORDAN'S CASE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SUPPLY ISSUES. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, WEDDED TO ANY PARTICULAR MODEL AND WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR VIEWS.

5. DECONTROL DATE JUNE 21, 1975 (SEWARD). KISSINGER
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